

The Qur'ân

**Itself Carries Clear Evidence
of Divine Origin**

Fahmeeda Hameed

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Personal Instructions to the Prophet ﷺ

﴿إِن كُنْتَ فِي شَكٍّ مِّمَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ فَسْأَلِ الَّذِينَ يَقْرَأُونَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَقَدْ جَاءَكَ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّكَ فَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْمُمْتَرِينَ ۝ وَلَا تَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ كَذَبُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَتَكُونُوا مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

If you are in doubt as to what We^[1] have revealed to you, then ask those who have been reading the Scriptures before you.^[2] The truth has indeed come to you from your Lord; so be not of the doubters. Nor be of those who reject God's signs, for then you would be among the losers. (10:94-5)

﴿فَلَا تَكُ فِي مِرْيَةٍ مِمَّا يَعْبُدُ هَؤُلَاءِ مَا يَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا كَمَا يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُهُمْ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَإِنَّا لَمُوَفُّهُمْ نَصِيبَهُمْ غَيْرَ مَنْقُوصٍ﴾

Be not in doubt then as to what these men worship;

^[1] No concept like the Trinity is implied here; it is customary in the Arabic language for the first person singular holding a position of a unique nature to use the plural pronoun 'We' for himself.

^[2] This was in the early days, when for instance the Prophet ﷺ found his first encounter with the angel Gabriel most frightening. On returning home, he lay down and asked his wife Khadijah to cover him up with a blanket. Later on he told her that his life was in danger and described his experience. She then took him to her Christian cousin Waraqa, who said that what Muhanmad ﷺ had seen and been told, indicated that he had been chosen as a Prophet to guide the people. One is inclined to reflect: Could such be the beginning of a pretense to prophethood as some people tend to insinuate?

The following symbolic images used in the book mean:



May peace be upon him!



May the peace and blessings of God be upon him!

they worship nothing but what their fathers worshipped before; We shall surely pay them their share undiminished. (11:109)

﴿وَالْقُرْآنَ لَعَلَّكُمْ﴾ ۝ إِنَّكَ لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ۝ عَلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ۝ تَنْزِيلَ الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ لِتُنذِرَ قَوْمًا مَّا أُنذِرَ آبَاؤُهُمْ فَهُمْ غَافِلُونَ﴾

By the Qur'ân full of wisdom, you are indeed one of the Messengers, on a straight path. Revelation is sent down by the Almighty, the All-Wise, the Most Merciful, in order that you may admonish a people whose fathers received no admonition, and who remained heedless. (36:2-6)

﴿وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ هُوَ الْحَقُّ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بِعِبَادِهِ لَخَبِيرٌ بَصِيرٌ﴾

That which We have revealed to you of the Book is the truth confirming what was (revealed) before it. God is assuredly with respect to His servants well acquainted and fully observant.^[1] (35:31)

﴿وَكَذَلِكَ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا وَصَرَّفْنَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْوَعِيدِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَّقُونَ أَوْ يُحْدِثُ لَهُمْ ذِكْرًا ۝ فَتَعَلَى اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ يُقْضَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ وَقُل رَّبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا﴾

Thus have We sent this down, an Arabic Qur'ân, and

^[1] Notice the change in flow of the language. Does it signal a change of the speaker? On the contrary such patterns are a common feature of the Qur'ân. It is not a book in the usual sense: it is really a collection of revelations received over a period of twenty-three years. Verses were on receipt placed in their specific positions, through instructions of the angel Gabriel to the Prophet ﷺ.

interspersed it with warnings so that they may turn God-fearing, or it causes them to take heed. Most Exalted indeed is God, the True King! And do not hasten with recitation of the Qur'ân before its revelation to you is completed,^[1] but say, 'O my Lord, advance me in knowledge.' (20:113-4)

﴿لَا تَجْرِكَ بِهِ لِسَانَكَ لِتَعْجَلَ بِهِ ۝ إِذْ عَلَيْنَا جَمْعُهُمْ وَقُرْآنُهُمْ ۝ فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَهُ فَانْبِجْ قُرْآنَهُ ۝ ثُمَّ إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا بَيِّنَاتِهِ﴾

Do not move your tongue with it to hasten it. Its collection and recitation (by you) is our responsibility. When We recite it, follow the reading; then it is for Us to enable you to deliver it. (75:16-9)

﴿فَلَا تَتَّبِعْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ فَتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمَعْذُوبِينَ ۝ وَانذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ ۝ وَخَفِضْ جَنَاحَكَ لِمَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۝ فَإِنْ عَصَوْكَ فَقُلْ إِنِّي بَرِيءٌ مِمَّا نَعْمَلُونَ ۝ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الْعَزِيزِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ الَّذِي يَرْفَعُ رَنَدَكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ ۝ وَتَقْلُبُكَ فِي السَّجْدِينَ ۝ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ﴾

Call not on any other god with God lest you should become one of the doomed ones. And warn your nearest kinsmen; lower your wing to those who follow you; then if the people disobey you, say, 'I am free of responsibility for what you do.'^[2]

^[1] That hardly leaves much room for the picture some people visualise of Muhammad ﷺ dictating the Qur'ân or memorising the Verses at the instance of a human mentor. Many long revelations (e.g., the chapter headed Joseph) were received on the spur of the moment in answer to new questions posed at the time. (Shafi', Mufti Muhammad, *Ma'âriful-Qur'ân*, vol.5)

^[2] This too is one of the earliest Verses.

is enough for me. There is no God but He. In Him have I put my trust. He is the Lord of the Mighty Throne.'
(9:128-9)

4

The Prophet ﷺ was consoled

﴿وَمَا يَسْتَوِي الْأَحْيَاءُ وَلَا الْأَمْوَاتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُسْمِعُ مَن يَشَاءُ وَمَا أَنتَ بِمُسْمِعٍ مَّن فِي الْقُبُورِ ۚ إِنَّ أَنتَ إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ ۝ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ بِالْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَإِن مِّن أُمَّةٍ إِلَّا خَلَا فِيهَا نَذِيرٌ ۝ وَإِن يُكَذِّبُوكَ فَقَدْ كَذَّبَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُهُم بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَبِالزُّبُرِ وَبِالْكِتَابِ الْمُنِيرِ ۝ ثُمَّ أَخَذْتُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ﴾

Not alike are the living and the dead. God can cause whomsoever He wills to hear; you cannot make yourself heard by those in graves (dead spiritually). You are but a warner.

Surely, We have sent you with truth as a bearer of glad tidings, and as a warner; there never was a people without a warner having lived among them.

And if they deny you, those before them also denied. Their Messengers came to them with clear signs, and with Scriptures, and the illuminating Book.^[1] Then I took hold of those who disbelieved, and how (terrible) was My punishment. (35:22-6)

﴿وَإِن يُكَذِّبُوكَ فَقَدْ كَذَّبَتْ قَبْلَهُمْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ وَعَادٌ وَثَمُودٌ ۝ وَقَوْمُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَقَوْمُ لُوطٍ ۝ وَأَصْحَابُ مَدْيَنَ وَكَذَّبَ مُوسَىٰ فَأَمَلَيْتُ لِلْكَافِرِينَ ثُمَّ أَخَذْتَهُمْ

^[1] Acceptance of the Prophets as they came and adherence to their simple and straightforward message of basic guidance and directions for mankind would have ensured the solidarity of all believers and obviated the tendency to set up opposing factions. The Qur'ân says: 'Surely this community of yours is one community, and I am your Lord; so worship Me. But people split up their affair between them. All shall return to Us (to account for their actions).' (21:92-3)

فَكَيْفَ كَانَ نَكِيرِ ○ فَكَأَيِّنْ مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ أَهْلَكْنَاهَا وَهِيَ ظَالِمَةٌ فِيهَا
 خَاوِيَةٌ عَلَى عُرُوشِهَا وَيَبْعَثُ فِيهَا مُنْقَلَبًا مَفْعَلًا ○ أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ
 فَتَكُونُ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ يَعْقِلُونَ بِهَا أَوْ آذَانٌ يَسْمَعُونَ بِهَا فَإِنَّهَا لَا تَعْمَى الْأَبْصَارُ
 وَلَكِنْ تَعْمَى الْقُلُوبُ الَّتِي فِي الصُّدُورِ ○ وَبَسَّطْنَاكَ بِالْعَذَابِ وَلَنْ يُخْلِفَ اللَّهُ
 وَعْدَهُ وَإِنَّ يَوْمًا عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ كَأَلْفِ سَنَةٍ مِمَّا تَعُدُّونَ ○ وَكَأَيِّنْ مِنْ قَرْيَةٍ
 أَمَلَيْتُ لَهَا وَهِيَ ظَالِمَةٌ ثُمَّ أَخَذْتُهَا وَإِلَى الْمَصِيرِ ○ قُلْ يَتَّبِعُنِي النَّاسُ إِنَّمَا أَنَا
 لَكُمْ نَذِيرٌ مُبِينٌ ○ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ كَرِيمٌ
 ○ وَالَّذِينَ سَعَوْا فِي آيَاتِنَا مُعْجِزِينَ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَحِيمِ ﴿

If they deny you, so did deny the people before them—the people of Noah, the 'Ad and Thamud, the people of Abraham and Lot, and the inhabitants of Madyan,^[1] and Moses was denied too.^[2] I granted respite to the disbelievers, but then I seized them and how (terrible) was the punishment! How many habitations engaged in wrongdoing have We destroyed? They are fallen down on their roofs. Wells are lying deserted, and imposing mansions.^[3]

^[1] Let us recall some more Verses of the Qur'an: 'And surely this community of yours is one community, and I am your Lord; so fear Me. But people split up their affair between them into factions, each group rejoicing with what is with them. Leave them in their sad situation for a while.' (23:52-4)

^[2] As regards Jesus, just imagine how different things could have been if his people had listened to him. He was forced to call them a 'wicked generation' (Mat 12:45); 'evil and adulterous generation' (Mat 12:39); 'generation of vipers' (Mat 3:7, 12:34 and 23:33, and Luke 3:7); 'perverse generation' (Mat 17:17, Mark 9:19 and Luke 9:41); and 'sinful generation' (Mark 8:38).

^[3] After Jesus having been rejected, Jerusalem got destroyed as predicted by him; even the magnificent temple got raised to the ground.

Do they not travel through the land so that their hearts understand thereby or their ears learn therewith to listen? Truly, it is not the eyes that go blind; it is the hearts in the breasts that go blind.

They ask you to hasten the punishment!^[1] God will not fail in His promise. Surely a day with your Lord is like a thousand years of your reckoning.^[2] And to how many habitations engaged in wrongdoing did I give respite? Then I seized them and to Me is the return.

Say: 'O mankind!^[3] I am only a plain warner to you.' Those who believe and work righteously, for them is forgiveness and gracious provision. Those who strive against Our signs to frustrate them, they will be companions of the Fire. (22:42-51)

﴿وَقَالُوا يَتَّبِعُنَا الَّذِي نَزَّلَ عَلَيْهِ الذِّكْرُ إِنَّكَ لَمَجْنُونٌ ○ لَوْ مَا تَأْتِينَا بِالْمَلَكِ
 إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ ○ مَا نُنَزِّلُ الْمَلَكِ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَمَا كَانُوا إِذَا
 مُنْظَرِينَ ○ إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ ○ وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ
 فِي شَيْعِ الْأَوَّلِينَ ○ وَمَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ ○ كَذَلِكَ
 نَسْلُكُهُمْ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ ○ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ ○ وَقَدْ خَلَتْ سُنَّةُ الْأَوَّلِينَ ○ وَلَوْ
 فَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ بَابًا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ فَظَلُّوا فِيهِ يَعْرُجُونَ ○ لَقَالُوا إِنَّمَا سُكَّرَتْ
 أَنْبَارُنَا بَلْ نَحْنُ قَوْمٌ مَسْحُورُونَ﴾

^[1] They would say, 'We are rejecting you, so bring along the punishment that you keep threatening us with.' In response, this Verse reminded them of the Day of Judgment. The succeeding Verse talks of punishment both in this world and the next.

^[2] The reference is obviously to the Day of Judgment.

^[3] It behoves the righteous throughout mankind to at least ponder over whether or not the Qur'an could indeed be the latest directive from the Lord of the universe.

nothing but what is revealed to me. If I were to disobey my Lord, I should fear the retribution of an awful day.'

Say: 'If God had so willed, I would not have recited it to you, nor would He have made it known to you. A whole lifetime before this have I lived amongst you – will you not understand?'

Who does more wrong than one who fabricates a lie against God, or denies His signs? Never will sinners prosper. (10:15-7)

﴿وَإِذَا بَدَّلْنَا آيَةً مَكَانَ آيَةٍ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يُزِيلُ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُفْتَرٍ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ۝ قُلْ نَزَّلَهُ رُوحُ الْقُدُسِ مِنْ رَبِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيُثَبِّتَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ﴾

And when We substitute a Verse in place of another^[1] – and God knows best what He sends down – they say: 'You are surely a forger.' In fact most of them have no knowledge.

Say: 'The Holy Spirit (Gabriel) brought it down from your Lord with truth, so that it may strengthen those who believe, and be a guidance and glad tidings to those who submit (to the Lord).' (16:101-2)

^[1] For one example, the laws (concerning Fasting, Inheritance, and Prohibition, for instance) were introduced stage by stage.

7

A Challenge

﴿قُلْ لِّئِنْ أَجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَى أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَتْ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا﴾

Say: 'If mankind and the jinns^[1] were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'ân, they would not be able to produce the like of it, despite assisting one another.' (17:88)

﴿فَذَكِّرْ فَمَا أَنْتَ بِنِعْمَتِ رَبِّكَ بِكَاهِنٍ وَلَا مَجْنُونٍ ۝ أَمْ يَقُولُونَ شَاعِرٌ نَتَرَبِّصُ بِهِ رَيْبَ الْمَنُونِ ۝ قُلْ تَرَبَّصُوا فَإِنِّي مَعَكُمْ مِنَ الْمُنْتَظِرِينَ ۝ أَمْ تَأْمُرُهُمْ أَهْلُهُمْ بِهَذَا أَمْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ طَاعُونَ ۝ أَمْ يَقُولُونَ نَقُولُ بِهَذَا أَلَّا يُؤْمِنُونَ ۝ فَلْيَأْتُوا بِحَدِيثٍ مِثْلِهِ إِنْ كَانُوا صَادِقِينَ﴾

Therefore remind! By the grace of your Lord, you are not a soothsayer, nor one who is possessed. Or do they say: 'A poet! We await for him a mishap brought about by time!' Say: 'Await! I shall await along with you!'

Does their intellect tell them to do this, or are they a transgressing lot?

Or do they say, 'He fabricated it?' No, but they do not believe. Let them bring a recitation like it, if they are truthful. (52:29-34)

﴿أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِعَشْرِ سُوْرٍ مِثْلِهِ مُفْتَرِيْنَ وَادْعُوا مَنِ

^[1] A species created from fire, Satan being one of them; some are believers.